



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Birang et al. Art Unit : 2877
Serial No. : 09/399,310 Examiner : Patrick R. Connelly
Filed : September 20, 1999
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IN-SITU ENDPOINT DETECTION FOR
CHEMICAL MECHANICAL POLISHING OPERATIONS

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 27, 2004

In reply to the Office Action of May 27, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-10, 24, 42-50 stand rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over various claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,964,643. Claims 25-26, 41 and 63-70 stand rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over various claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,537,133.

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed.

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/27/04

David J. Goren
David J. Goren
Reg. No. 34,609

Telephone: (650) 839-5070
Facsimile: (650) 839-5071

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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